THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Anti-riot guns, rubber bullets; water cannon, shock batons, anti-riot vehicles, etc. have already been introduced in the CPMFs and State/UT police forces for controlling riot situation.

Enquiry conducted by National Commission for women

133. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) and a Committee of Members of Parliament have made an on-the-spot enquiry in respect of alleged molestation, stripping as well as rape of Uttarakhand women by police personnel at Muzaffarnagar on October 2, 1994,

(b) if so, what are the facts and details of enquiry conducted by the NCW and MPs committee;

(c) whether NCW has submitted its report to Government, if so; what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government have take or propose to take against the persons found guilty fr such heinous crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Women and an All-Party Parliamentary Fact Finding Team visited Muzaffarnagar to enquire into the facts and ascertain the veracity of allegation of excess committed by the police on the women folk. The National Commission for Women has since submitted a detailed report on November 16, 1994 after an extensive tour of the Uttrakhand area. The Commission in its report has found the allegations of molestation/rape etc. true, though the names and numbers have not been specified. The Commission has recommended certain policy and administrative measures to prevent such occurences.

The All-Party Fact Finding Team of Member of Parliament in its report have stated that there was lack of sufficient evidence to indicate the gang rape by the police but the isolated cases of rape or molestation could not be ruled out.

As per directions of the High Court of Allahabad in its order passed on 7-10-94 in the Civil Misc. Writ Petition No. 32982 of 1994—Uttrakhand Sangarsh Samiti Vs. the State Government of U P., the CBI has undertaken an investigation of the incidents which had occurred in regions of Garhwal and Kumaun and other parts of U P. The C.B.I. has since filed a report in the matter on 5-12-94 in the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad.

In accordance with the provisions laid down in the Constitution, 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects. It is therefore, for the State Government to take action against the guilty police officials.

Violence against Women

134. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports published in the Indian Express and Hindustan Times of September 27, 1994 and October 3, 1994 titled: 'Is rape a 'minor' issue? Ask the 12 months old infant' and Make Dowry laws work", respectively;

(b) if so, what is the number of cases of violence against women in the country (State-wise and Union territory-wise) which took place during each of the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and so far in 1994 relating to rape, molestation, kidnapping and abduction, eve teasing, unnatural offences, cruelty, dowry deaths and blackmailing of innocent girls by taking their nude photographs for exploitation purposes;

(c) what are the details of such cases which took place in Delhi during the period mentioned above;

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb the activities of criminals and save the girls and women from such unscrupulous persons;

(e) whether Government have considered and propose to bring a suitable legislation amending the relevant Acts for the protection of life, honour and dignity of women in the country, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) by when such a comprehensive legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing category-wise atrocities against women including dowry deaths, rape etc. in the country (State/Union Territory-wise) during the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 is attached. (See Appendix 172, Annexure No. 5]

(d) to (f) The registration investigation detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women, is the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Government of India have initiated a number of measures to check such crimes. The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) was amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973) and the Indian Evidence Act (1872) have been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women. Instructions/ guidelines have also been issued from time to time to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administratoins to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women. Besides, the media is being used to project women in positive terms. Awarness-generation camps are being organised. Development of women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) programme and female literacy programmes are some of the other steps being taken to improve the status of women.

Fire in Sadar Bazar

135. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 300 shops were gutted in Sadar Bazar, Delhi on 12th October, 1994; if so, the details of the incident; and

(b) the findings of the inquiry, if any, ordered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Delhi Fire Service have reported that 80 shops were gutted in a serious fire which broke out on 12th October, 1994 near Ahmed Ki Sarai, Gandhi Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi. Shri Sanat Kaul, Managing Dilector & Chairman, Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi is conducting an enquiry into the incident.

Border Fencing

136. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for fencing up Indo-Bangla and Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the year by which the fencing work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fencing for a length of 355 kms. on Indo-Bangladesh Border and 835 kms. on Indo-Pak Border has been erected so far